



BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS

2020 - 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT



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**PREPARED AND PRESENTED**

FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

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## OUR VISION

That displaced children are provided with necessary material aid in a timely manner.



## OUR VALUES

Compassion \* Honesty \* Fairness \* Reliability \* Inclusion



The Backpack 4 Vic Kids Headquarters is located on the lands of the Mayone Balluk clan, of the larger Boonerwung language group, who are in turn part of the vast Kulin Nation people and we wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners of the land. We would also like to pay respects to their Elders, past and present, and Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be still live in the area.

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Financial and In-kind Donors  
So. Much. Love.  
Partnerships & Collaborations





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# ABOUT BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS



Backpacks 4 VIC Kids ('B4VK') is an incorporated association, registered as a public benevolent charitable organisation holding Deductible Gift Recipient status and Tax Concession Charity.

B4VK operates across a continuum of practice at the governance, management, operational and delivery levels that are reflective of the resources, funding, support, and participation levels from the local community.

Our strength and distinctiveness in the non-profit sector are product reliability and the interaction between formal and informal methods to achieve our mission. B4VK's Headquarters is warm and welcoming, situated in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria. It is often through informal interaction that needs of local children displaced are identified. Identifying these needs and issues through a range of methods is instrumental in informing the planning and development of activities and programs.

As a community-based and legally constituted organisation, B4VK is governed by a voluntary management commitment, comprising elected members who live, work, or participate in the local community. The Committee of Management is legally accountable to our membership base to endorse the strategic and policy framework of B4VK, ensuring the financial viability of the legal entity, and ensuring compliance with all legislative, statutory and contractual duties, obligations and requirements.

The governance model is developmental, with the governing body working co-operatively and collaboratively with staff, volunteers, clients and the wider community, thus generating a range of community benefits through our community service programs.



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# ABOUT BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS



The CEO is employed by the Committee of Management. The management role, while distinct from the governance role, is responsible to (a) advise and inform the governing body, and (b) to manage operations, internal processes, and day-to-day affairs and activities of B4VK.

Operational tasks are undertaken by staff in partnership with volunteers. Members of the governing body are frequently involved in the volunteer effort to complement or support the work of paid staff. The role and contribution of volunteers is significant, producing benefits for all involved.

B4VK plans, develops, and manages the operational structure of the organisation for optimal responsiveness to the complex and diverse needs of our local communities, in accordance with our statement of purpose.

B4VK provides a range of material aid programs for children aged from birth to seventeen, displaced in our local community (mainly Victoria) and from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Recipients are children who for a variety of reasons cannot return to their home nor access their belongings. Programs are developed in response to identified community needs, often in consultation with child welfare workers and out-of-home carers, and in line with available resources.

Programs are designed to meet the needs of recipients and prospective recipients. Key strengths of B4VK are our flexibility, agility, resilience, responsiveness and adaptability. Additional impact includes the addressing of social justice issues through awareness-raising, community education and social action.

B4VK is an independent legal entity working collaboratively with social and welfare service providers, like-minded non-profit organisations and individuals providing care in our community. Resources are sought through fundraising, donations, grants, sponsorship and bequests. From time-to-time B4VK subscribes to peak bodies for example Fundraising Institute of Victoria, Our Community, Victorian Council of Social Services. Through membership to these organisations B4VK can work collaboratively on sector based issues and needs. Through membership to these organisations B4VK can access support, resources, information, advice, advocacy, lobbying to government and training.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although my role in the tenure of President has only been short, it has been an honour and privilege to hold this role. Over an extremely challenging year, and not just because of COVID, Sally, the Operations Team and the Committee of Management have done an amazing job to not only keep the ship afloat, but to actually exceed our expectations.

Thanks need to go to our wonderful volunteer base and our most generous donors - whether they be individuals or corporates. None of the above would have been achievable without all the B4VK team members all contributing in their own individual way - no matter how small.

Having achieved an amazing result this year, we now face significant challenges (good ones though I must say). Strategic plans, financial strategies and risk assessments are just some things that are now more imperative than ever with so many individuals prepared to donate their funds to assist children in need. This commitment and trust from the Melbourne public to our charity requires our commitment to ensure every dollar is spent where maximum impact can be made with absolute transparency.

We are working closely to achieve these goals, with hopefully some news around assistance with our strategic planning to come over the coming weeks.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee of Management for your support and hard work, and in particular to Sally Beard and her unwavering commitment to help every single child in need we possibly can.

Bring on 2022 - exciting times.

Darrin Bayliss-White  
Acting President, B4VK

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

If ever a time to prove our resilience, commitment, flexibility and enduring support has presented itself, 2021 has to be it! It has been my honour to lead B4VK this year.

We exist to improve the lives of children displaced, children in out of home care, and children in emergency and secure accommodation. Our programs provide items which are urgently needed by children who no longer have access to their belongings, or who may be temporarily unable to return home.

We are proud to be leading the way in providing urgently needed essential aid to children in Victoria. For seven years, with incredible community support, we have been ensuring that displaced children have the resources they need and above all, feel cared for in what can be the most distressing time of their life.

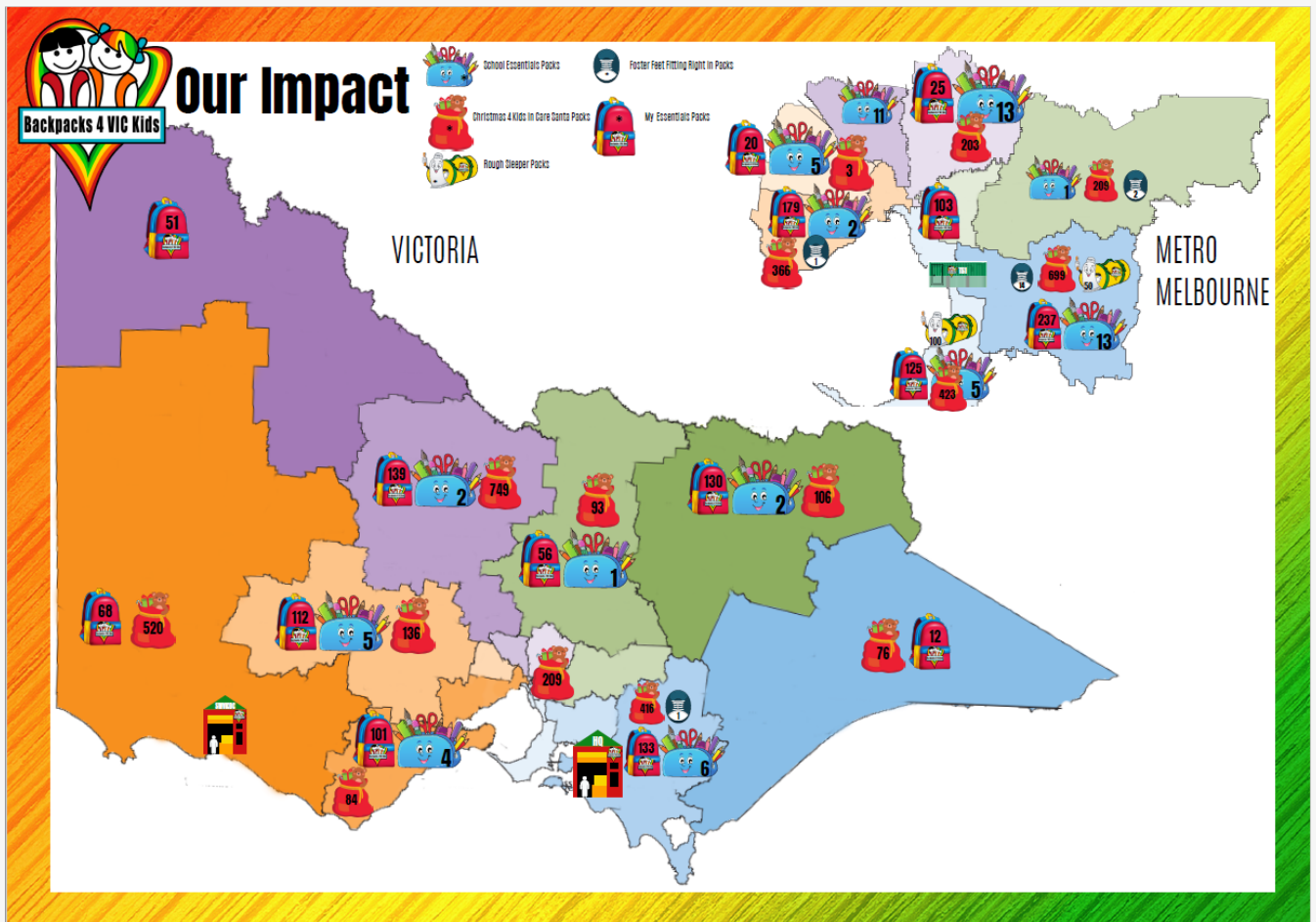
I am extremely proud of every member of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers and all the time and genuine care you have been providing that contributes to the care, safety and wellbeing of thousands of children whose home is no longer a safe place.

Thank you to all our B4VK family for playing your part, no matter how small that may have been, standing up for children in need and being the change you want to see in the world. We've have had ups and downs, that's for sure but remember, B4VK exists because of you. You are truly amazing! I am enormously grateful that you showed kids in care you've got their back.

I'm looking forward to another year of giving to children in need, restoring our infrastructure, streamlining our operational processes and strengthening our collaboration with our wonderful community to reach more kids.

Sally Beard  
Founder, CEO and Secretary, B4VK

# THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE



**ME PACKS**  
**1,642 CHILDREN**

**RS PACKS**  
**150 CHILDREN**

**SE PACKS**  
**66 CHILDREN**

**C4KIC SANTA  
PACKS**

**FFFRI PAIRS**  
**6 CHILDREN**

**4,386 CHILDREN**  
**FMV \$847,790**



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# SOUTH WEST VIC DISTRIBUTION CENTRE REPORT

## JENNIFER AND PETER KING

We are proud to have continued distribution of ME Packs and C4KiC Santa Packs to the following agencies:

Child Protection - Warrnambool, Portland and Hamilton  
Emma House Domestic Violence Services - Warrnambool  
Brophy Family Services - Warrnambool

My Essentials Packs - 53 ME Packs distributed

Christmas 4 Kids in Care - 540 C4KiC Santa Packs were made and distributed

Fundraising total: \$8050

Thanks to ~

The Loader Family and the Morton Family  
Warrnambool Racing Club  
St John's Care and Share  
Warrnambool Kiwanis

Presentations:

Hopkins Probus  
Warrnambool Newcomers Club  
Warrnambool Kiwanis  
Boomerang Bags (Zoom)  
Rotary Club of Hamilton (Zoom)



Above: Jennifer and Peter King receiving the Peter Johns Community Service Award from Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak

Left: Jenn's kitchen bench is often used for sorting through kind donations.

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# THIS WARMS OUR HEARTS

**“THANK YOU FOR DOING SUCH AMAZING THINGS FOR THE KIDS AND THE CAREGIVING FAMILIES. YOUR KINDNESS, CARING AND LOVE IS MUCH NEEDED IN THIS WORLD! SENDING LOTS OF HUGS TO YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL TEAM!”**



**6250 PACKS ALTOGETHER WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF \$847,790 WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL KIDS. (2020 \$660,00). THIS IS A 266% RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AT A TOTAL COST \$318,697 (% INCREASE DUE TO PANDEMIC CHALLENGES). OUR SHORT TERM GOALS INCLUDE REDUCING THE COST OF OUR PROGRAMS TO A PRE-COVID LEVEL.**

**IT'S NOT ABOUT THE NUMBERS THOUGH, IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM. THE VALUE OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR DIGNITY AND SELF-ESTEEM IS PRICELESS.**

**WHILST FOCUSING ON OUR SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS MISSION. WE CARE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION, AIM TO WASTE LESS WATER AND REDUCE OUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION. WE BELIEVE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ENCOURAGE OUR TEAM TO FOCUS ON LONG TERM RESULTS NOT JUST QUARTERLY TARGETS.**

**PASSION, CLARITY AND TEAMWORK ARE KEYS TO MAKING OUR DREAMS BECOME OUR REALITY.**



# Rounding Up for B4VK

You gave a little, but changed a lot



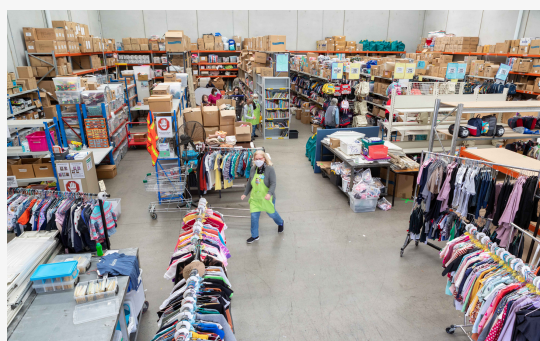
We are amazed by the teams' dedication, astounding efforts and the generosity of local community members who have rounded up their purchase at six participating **Officeworks** stores (**Chadstone, Glen Waverley, Carnegie, South Yarra, South Melbourne and Elsternwick**) to make a difference for at least 650 kids in care.



Giving month Point of sale Round Up Campaign was held in February by Myer Fountain Gate store

## Transformational support for B4VK

Thanks to the continued support from **The Baker Foundation**, we have increased our capacity and strengthened our organisation's ability to be self-sustainable in the future. The relocation to a larger space allows our staff and volunteers to work in safe environment, enjoy their contribution and time. We are able to have more stock, more people, and that means we can provide stronger support to children in crisis through delivery of our free programs.



Together with **AusNet Services**, B4VK will support at least 330 children in regional Victoria, who through no fault of their own are displaced from their home due to various reasons, and everything they know is stripped away in just a moment. Your commitment to helping children in care and their carers, will help shape the future of our community. This is invaluable!

## Our first-ever Giving Day!

As a backpack means the world to a child receiving it, the support of our compassionate community means the world to us! Thank you for banding together on the 10th of June and raising an extraordinary amount of \$50K that enables B4VK to create positive change and give hope for children in care.





# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Our Committee of Management experienced some changes throughout the year as each of us had our own personal and work challenges diverting our attention during the most difficult times of the pandemic. Well done to all who have contributed to monthly general meetings, extraordinary meetings and our Annual General Meeting held in 2020.

To all who have served this past year on our Committee of Management, thank you for taking time out of your busy days, and contributing to the future of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids. You have an amazing ability to bring out the best in all of us.

Thank you for your time, kindness and commitment.



**KATRINA HIGHAM**

I volunteer because I believe in Backpacks 4 Vic Kids and the positive impact the backpacks have directly on kids. I love that the donations are things that can be given a child in need and it is 'theirs' to keep. I love that the backpacks are packed with such loving items, like handmade blankets and toys that they can snuggle with at night when they may have never had those things before.

I honestly believe that what Backpacks 4 Vic Kids is doing is life changing and life saving for every child it helps.



**MARK GUTHRIE**

I saw this as an opportunity to support a grassroots charity because with more support we can support more kids.



**DARRIN BAYLISS-WHITE**

My volunteer role for BP4VK is driven by a commitment to positively impact the lives of others - even if it is only a small impact. BP4VK provides me the opportunity to march my corporate skills, to my personal values. As individuals we all have something we good at, and it is important to use these skills to help others who may be less fortunate



**SHARNI TAYLOR**

I volunteer my time because I am passionate about improving the lives of others less fortunate than myself



**ROSS BEARD**

I look after the buildings, make shelving and fix things as needed, I'm happy to help where I can



**DEBBIE MEDLEY**

I feel that I make a difference, in helping, caring for kids in difficult times



**SALLY BEARD**



**BELINDA COOPER-GREEN**

To bring hope to children in need is why I volunteer with Backpacks 4 VIC Kids



**HELEN BROWN**

The mission, the children's circumstances and being able to help the carers in some way in taking care of the children is the reason I volunteer. I feel somehow that it's making a difference

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Thank you to all community groups, nfps, businesses, foundations and associations for your kindness, collaboration and strength.

Our combined efforts have helped to empower hundreds of children and their carers beyond their circumstances.

Together we are stronger, and we are making a positive and far-reaching impact on our community. For this, we can't thank you enough!

## VALUED FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS INDIVIDUALS

This list is in alphabetical order by first name. If your name is not here, we apologise as we don't always receive all the details from payments.

A.Doyle, V.Doyle &  
Y.J.Forsyth  
Amy Pagnocco  
A Annat  
Aditya Rajagopalan  
Vidya Narayanan  
Adriana Pesavento  
Andrea Hastings  
Andrea Kalbusch  
Andrea Lemalu  
AngelaCraven  
Anna Raftery  
Anne Harari  
Annette Blake  
Annette Leahy  
Ashley Gardiner  
Astrid Adamson  
Athapattu Fernando  
Barbara Handson  
Ben Johnston  
Beverley Davies  
Bianca Sugden  
Bill Mereibi  
Bobbie Cecilia Bartkus  
Brendan Bates  
Brendan Poulton  
Brett Randall  
BronwynPayne  
Calum MaCrae  
Carl Yazbek  
CAROLINE EDGE  
Carolyn Woolnough  
Cassandra Johnson  
Chantal Ihaka  
Charlotte Davison  
Chris Mathisen  
Christine Morris-Jones  
Christine SI  
Christian O'Connell  
Chisholm Fiddler  
Daniel Pettifer  
Danielle Bruhn

David Reid  
David Bechaz  
DAVID LEE  
David Reidie  
Deborah Dunn  
Denise Whitehead  
Dinesh Thiyagarajan  
Donna Richardson  
Edward Joseph  
Elise Atkinson  
Elizabeth Ruschena  
Emma Roughsedge  
Fiona Burnes  
Fiona Miller  
Fiona Smalley  
Fiona Zandt  
Floriye Bekiri  
Gail Mason  
Gary Annells  
Gary Landy  
Gary Spilkin  
Gaurav Malik  
Graham Webb  
Grant McDonald  
Greg Sullivan  
Guthrie K J & G  
Hannah Lin  
Heather Edwards  
Helen Urban  
Ian Ellis  
Ian Firms  
Ilona Spence  
Jack Post  
Jade Cranton  
Jan Forsyth  
Jane Doyle  
Janet Rogerson  
Jeffrey Appleton  
Jeffrey Bowater  
Jennifer Bartle  
Jenny-Lyn Heazlewood  
Jessica Donnison

Jessica Ryan  
Joanne Daniher  
Johan Jansen van Vuuren  
John Carlon  
John Garimort  
John Wright  
Jolanda Vennedunker  
Jolly Aaron  
Jonathan Taylor  
Judith Feiglin  
Julia Ford  
Julie Danaher  
Kate Nagle  
Keith Perry  
Kellie Clay  
Kevin Heyhoe  
Kian K Chan  
Kim Bradford  
Kim Caddy  
Kirsty McRobb  
Kunal Parikh  
Kunjan Negandhi  
Kylie and Ben Lannan  
Lana Black  
Lauren  
Laurene Tidswell  
Lee Conforti  
Leesa Brett  
Leigh Fabris  
Leigh Indian  
Linda Gray  
Linda Pickering  
Linda Sanders  
Lorraine and Tim Dimtsas  
Lorraine Hill  
Louise Porteous  
Louise Snowden  
Louise Williams  
Louis Pretorius  
Luke Michael Lyne  
Lyndal Saunders  
Lyndon Phillips

## VALUED FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS INDIVIDUALS

Lynette Landy  
Marg Vesey  
Margaret Chisholm  
Marilyn Heggie  
Mark Emmins  
Mark Rodrigues  
Marnie Brooks  
Marnix van Gaalen  
Matthew Woods  
Megan Calder  
Meghan Kelly  
Melissa Galea  
Melissa Hayes  
Melita George  
Michelle Benedek  
Michelle Mead  
Minh Thien Truong  
MRS Nicole Hopkins  
MS Karen A Asquith  
Naomi Byrnes  
Natasha Zaharias  
Nicoleta Giurgiu  
Niranjan Lakshmanan  
Paul Morgan  
Pauline de Bruyn  
Pauline Hunter Kleeman  
Peg McMahan  
Peter Burns  
Peter Joynson  
petra Hilton  
Philip Silverstone  
Poly Tzimourtas  
Rachael De Kretser  
Rachael Stanfield  
Rebecca Burrows  
Rebecca Kovess  
Rebecca Sloan  
Rhonda Hall  
Richard Owers  
Robert Anthony  
Robert Carter  
Robert Joyce

Robert Power  
Robert Stumpf  
Robyn Daglish  
Robyn De Wever  
Rosa Orfano  
Rosalyn Hunt  
Rowan Hanna  
Ryan Smith  
Sally Beard  
Sam Eichenbaum  
Sandra Lafforgue  
Scott Van Baardwyk  
Sharon Spaul  
Shelley Holmes  
Simon Buhagiar  
SONYA LOADER  
Stefan Tomaszynski  
Stuart Anderson  
Susan A Cope  
Susan Abishara  
Susan Crosbie  
Susan Kay Muir  
Susan Maree Carter  
Suzanne Caldwell  
TENEILLE KING  
Terry Camille  
Tess Hammond  
Tess McKibbin  
The Russo Family  
Tiffany Smith  
Toni O'Brien  
Tony Hedley  
Tracey Henderson  
Val Strantzen  
Valda Donald & Mary  
Venita Morrison  
W A Bell  
Wendy Cox  
WILLIAM PAGE  
Wolf Cocklin  
Yvonne Rooney  
Zuricka Hasker

A special mention to our  
regular givers:

Amanda Lieberman  
Anne Carr  
Antonieta Costa  
Belinda Cooper  
Brooke Gniel  
Coral Vandyk  
David Bechaz  
Donna Barfoot  
Frank Reitsma  
Greg Sullivan  
Harald Janovjak  
Hesther Eerens  
Ingeborg Roos  
James Edwards  
Janet Hastings  
Jaspriit Bedi  
Karen Ridgway  
Kerry Ritzrow  
Kevin Pittaway  
Shane green  
Sharon Clement  
Stacey Mawson  
Tony Rebeiro





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## VALUED FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Anaesthetic & Medical Billing  
Services Pty Ltd  
Aspire Early Learning  
Ausnet Services  
Avan Campers  
Aveo Botanic Gardens  
Aveo Freedom Concierge  
Bayside  
Bambino's Kindergarten  
Cranbourne West  
BJ Electrics Pty Ltd  
Blue Hills Rise - Lifestyle Resort  
Branded Burgers And Bar  
Commonwealth Bank- Casey  
Branch  
Community Bank Carrum  
Downs & Marriott Waters  
Connect People Pty Ltd  
CSL Limited  
Dandenong - Cranbourne RSL  
SUB Branch  
Dandenong Club  
Dandenong High School  
DocuSign  
Ecco Music  
EWR Group Pty Ltd  
Floating Memory Locketts  
Haileybury Parents & Friends  
(HPFK) Keysborough  
Hamilton Parklands School  
Health Insurance Comparison  
Hope Early Learning Centre  
HYACKI PTY LTD  
Ideal Conveyancing  
Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd  
Johnson & Johnson Medical Pty  
Ltd

Kiwanis Club of Warrnambool  
Like Share Grow  
Linak Australia Pty Ltd  
Loewe Project  
Margaret's Fabrics  
McConnell Dowell  
Mentone Grammar  
Mercedez Berwick  
MJB Contractor  
Monash Health  
Morton Power PTY LTD  
Myer Fountain Gate  
Officeworks  
Patterson Lakes Village  
Peppertree Hill Retirement Village  
Premier Roof Coatings Pty Ltd  
Ritchies Community Benefit Program  
South Eastern Program Alliance  
St Andrew's Kindergarten  
St Leonard's College  
Station House Early Years Learning  
The Order of the Secret Monitor Grand  
Council  
The Scentre Group  
Tooradin Tractor Pull Association Inc  
Track Protection Australia  
Tree Top Tower Hire  
Tuition Zone  
USA Foods  
Vivienne Court Trading  
Warrnambool Racing Club  
Western Program Alliance  
Wilson street kindergarten  
Wollerman Shacklock Barristers and  
Solicitors  
Zagame's Berwick Springs Hotel

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## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

### DONATION DRIVES

AGL  
Box Hill Hospital  
Casey Manor Aged Care  
Coles Local  
Cranbourne Girl Guides  
Empower Church  
Fantech  
Imagine Daycare and Kindergarten  
Cranbourne  
Imagine That!  
Linak  
Peppertree Retirement village  
Play 'n' Grow Early Learning Centre  
and Kindergarten  
Sims Metal Management  
Southeastern roads projects  
partners  
St John of God Auxillary  
Station House Early Years Learning  
Western roads projects partners

### IN-KIND CORPORATE DONATIONS

Amax removal and storage  
Baby bunting  
Bruck Textile  
Bunnings Cranbourne  
CH2  
COS  
Jayco  
Kmart Head Office  
Officeworks  
Outlet shop for kids  
Sleepcorp  
The Décor Corporation  
The little homie  
Four Golden Hearts

### CORPORATE AND SCHOOL GROUP VOLUNTEERING

APT Travel  
Casey Grammar  
Coles Property Group  
Dexion  
DocuSign  
Homegrown Bunch  
Ideal conveyancing  
Mount Scopus Memorial College  
Shadow Zone Photography  
Tableau Software  
Victorian International Container Terminal





# CHILDREN'S PACKS ARE FILLED WITH YOUR LOVE



"IT WAS SO NICE TO LAY THE CROCHETED BLANKIE OVER HIS HOSPITAL BED, WITH THE HANDMADE TEDDY AND THE TORCH. IT MADE A FRIGHTENING PLACE A LITTLE BIT MORE HOMELY AND I THINK BROUGHT HIM COMFORT."

THOUSANDS OF LOVINGLY HANDMADE ITEMS FROM SEWISTS, KNITTERS, CRAFTERS, CROCHETERS, ARE PASSED ON TO CHILDREN. OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO ALL WHO GIVE SOMETHING SO PERSONAL.



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## FOUNDATIONS

CMV Staff Foundation  
Concomitance Foundation  
Countable Charitable Foundation  
Fonda Family Charitable Foundation  
O'Brien Real Estate Foundation  
Sam and Paul Cross Foundation  
The Baker Foundation  
The Garry White Foundation  
The Lyone Foundation  
The Tobin Brothers Foundation  
Turosi Giving

## NFP PARTNERS

123Read2ME  
Bright Sparque  
CWA Pearcedale  
CWA Umina Branch  
GIVIT  
Good360  
Rotary Club of Boronia  
Rotary Club of Leongatha  
Rotary Club of Rowville Lysterfield  
Rotary Club of South Melbourne  
Rotary Club of Warrnambool East  
UPPAREL

## GOVERNMENT AND ASSOCIATIONS

City of Casey  
Cranbourne Police Station  
Maternal and Child Health Line  
Victoria State Govt Dept Jobs, Precincts and Regions  
Foster Care Association of Victoria  
Kinship Carers Australia group  
Foster Care and Kinship Care Association of Tasmania



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# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



## FROM SALLY BEARD, CEO

Corporate and community partnerships are essential to the sustainability of a non profit in today's difficult climate. With our partners, we are able to address the issues of dignity, equality and comfort for displaced and disadvantaged children. Our partners and organisations with whom we collaborate help us to achieve outcomes that we could not alone. Together we are stronger, and we are making a difference.

Each partnership is unique, bringing with it different benefits and reach. With the current year's economic uncertainty, our corporate partnerships, big and small, are so vital to Backpacks 4 VIC Kids continuing our programs. Backpacks 4 VIC Kids is frequently collaborating with other non profit organisations to support each other in achieving greater impact, and in supporting more children in need. We are looking forward to continuing and strengthening our valued partnerships, and to collaborating in new projects. We are also looking forward to developing new partnerships with corporations who care.

Thank you to all businesses, nfps, community groups and corporations for your kindness, collaboration and strength this year and in the future.

